

## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Department of Parks and Recreation



## **Aquatics**

Q: What do I need for admission to a DPR pool?

**A:** Admission to DPR pools is free for DC Residents. Just show a valid proof of current District of Columbia residency such as a driver's license in order to swim. Non-residents and residents may visit dpr.dc.gov to learn about other acceptable forms of ID and applicable entry fees.

**Q:** Are there any supervision rules for children using the pool?

A: Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult of 18 years and over at all times. Children younger than 6 years must be accompanied by an adult—in swim attire—at all times, and must be within an arm's length of the adult when in the pool. One adult can only accompany a maximum of three children, 6 years of age and younger. The ratio for this age group is 1 adult for every 3 children (1:3). Parents with children ages 6 to 12 cannot be responsible for a group larger than 6. The ratio for this age group is 1 adult for every 6 children (1:6).

Q: Do I have to wear swim attire when I visit the pool?

**A:** All guests on the pool deck and/or swimming are required to wear swim attire. This prevents transfer of contaminants in the water to maintain pool chemistry, water clarity, and ensure a clean swimming area. More information can be at dpr.dc.gov

**Q:** Is the pool water heated?

**A:** Yes, the water is maintained at 83 degrees Fahrenheit to accommodate all recreation, leisure, and competitive activities. Exceptions include our Therapeutic Aquatic Center (90 degrees), Whirlpool/Hot Tub (103 degrees), and Children's Pools (84 degrees). This temperature is recorded hourly and reported should temperature deviate more than (2) degrees.

**Q:** Do I have to shower before swimming?

**A:** Yes, absolutely! This is required and encourages healthy swimming. This helps to reduce chloramines and prevent recreational water illness (RWI). Chloramines produce the "pool smell" that is often described at pools. If strong enough, the "pool smell" can signify a source of irritation to the eyes, lungs and skin of swimmers. Perspiration, oils and urine are unwanted additions to pool water. By showering and using restrooms before entering the pool swimmers can help minimize chloramines and prevent the spread of RWIs.

**Q:** What programs do you offer?

A: We offer a variety of programming. This includes learn to swim, water aerobics, diving





lessons, swim team prep, and private swim lessons. For a full listing of courses please visit dpr.dc.gov

**Q:** When is the best time to swim laps?

**A:** Each facility has a lap lane schedule to show space available for activities at the pool, including open lanes. A schedule is available on each indoor pool webpage. They are updated each season and posted on dpr.dc.gov